



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

AUG 17 2005

The Honorable Mark Souder  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice,  
Drug Policy and Human Resources  
Committee on Government Reform  
House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Souder:

This is in response to your August 12, 2005 request relating to a Conference on Methamphetamine, HIV and Hepatitis. Thank you for bringing this important issue to my attention.

In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is not a sponsor of the conference you referenced. Conference organizers incorrectly listed HHS as a sponsor of the event without the Department's knowledge or consent. Conference organizers were mistaken and are removing the Department's name as a sponsor.

Six employees from CDC will be participating in the conference. Participation by CDC employees at conference sessions and exhibit booths will convey critical messages about reducing methamphetamine use and the infectious diseases associated with methamphetamine use. It will also enable CDC representatives to continue to learn how methamphetamine use is impacting communities in the US and what efforts may be working to reduce methamphetamine use. If you would like to discuss these matters with employees who attend the conference, the Department will make arrangements for such a meeting.

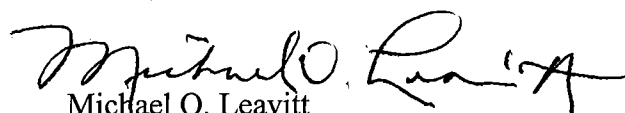
I'm disappointed that you apparently received incorrect information relating to your assertion that HHS has been a barrier towards the formulation of an Administration policy. In fact, the Administration is taking a strong approach to the methamphetamine problem, including efforts toward prevention, treatment, and education. The Department has partnered with the Department of Justice and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as state and local officials, to combat the methamphetamine threat.

In combating the methamphetamine challenge, HHS believes a balanced approach emphasizing prevention, treatment, and supply reduction has been demonstrably effective at reducing public health threat of drug abuse. To that end, HHS is undertaking a number of steps. These include:

- 1) **Access to Recovery** – A new consumer-driven voucher program that provides grants to states for treatment and recovery.
- 2) **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant** – Through this block grant, HHS provides \$1.8 billion annually for state substance abuse prevention and treatment programs to address methamphetamine abuse and all other substance abuse treatment needs.
- 3) **Strategic Prevention Framework** – HHS has awarded Strategic Prevention Framework grants to 24 states and 2 territories to advance community-based programs for substance abuse prevention.
- 4) **Drug-Free Communities** – This HHS administered program supports approximately 775 community anti-drug coalitions across the country.
- 5) **Research Into Medications and Behavioral Therapies** – Funding of methamphetamine-related research has increased almost 150% from approximately \$15 million in FY 2000 to more than \$37 million in FY 2004. The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) is tracking use of methamphetamine; supporting research into medications that may reduce or eliminate cognitive impairment and treat overdoses; and research into the most effective behavioral therapies for methamphetamine addiction.
- 6) **Assistance On Meth-Related Child Abuse** – The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has established a National Resource Center on Child Protective Services to provide technical assistance to state and local Child Protective Services agencies to improve their prevention, assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
- 7) **Targeted Capacity Expansion Grants (TCE)** – Later this week HHS is announcing \$16 million over three years for 11 new SAMHSA TCE grants focusing on treatment for methamphetamine addiction. TCE grants help States and local officials identify and address new and emerging trends in substance abuse treatment needs.

These are a few of the steps HHS is taking to fight the problem of methamphetamine. I hope this is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Michael O. Leavitt